



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**WNV Mosquito Infection Rates Prompt  
Health Department to Issue High Risk Warning To Residents**  
*“Protect yourself, protect your Family”*

(Salt Lake County) – Mosquito Abatement Districts (MAD) in Salt Lake County and the Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) today announced that they are seeing a dramatic increase in the number of mosquito samples testing positive for West Nile Virus. Health officials have issued a warning to residents about the high risk of disease and strongly urge them to take personal protective measures to prevent illness in themselves and family members.

Additionally, due to the late time of the season and the high valley-wide mosquito infection rate, local MADs announced that they will not activate the emergency aerial pesticide spraying program that was introduced last year.

“The positive mosquito samples are spread virtually throughout the entire valley,” says Sam Dickson, Director of the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District. “The emergency spraying done last year would cover only a small portion of the area that needs spraying – primarily the Jordan River corridor. Additionally, with the late time of the season, mosquito numbers will be naturally decreasing.”

Instead, local abatement districts will increase other mosquito control efforts such as ground pesticide spraying, known as “fogging.” This type of spraying is done on the ground with either hand-held or truck mounted spraying equipment and targets adult mosquitoes.

“We will be ground fogging in areas that may not have previously had spraying,” continues Dickson. “So residents should not be alarmed when they see the trucks in their neighborhoods. It’s just one more way we are trying to reduce the number of infected mosquitoes and, hopefully, reduce the number of human WNV cases this year.”

Abatement districts will also increase their traditional aerial spraying over marsh areas, such as the areas near the Salt Lake Airport and north of Magna.

“The health department is working closely with the local MADs and they are doing everything possible to reduce the number of infected mosquitoes,” explains Dr. Dagmar Vitek, Deputy Director at SLVHD. “However, individuals must continue to take personal steps to keep themselves and their family healthy – especially now when we are seeing such a high rate of infected mosquitoes.”

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Local Mosquito Abatement Districts and county health officials urge residents to do the following:

- Use mosquito repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Cover skin with protective clothing (long sleeves and long pants)
- Empty containers holding stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed

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### **Salt Lake County Area Mosquito Abatement Districts**

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